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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 6 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

I have the honour to address you, in your capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, regarding the note verbale dated 6 September 2005, included herewith (see annex), sent by the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations to the Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations. I also request your good offices in the official circulation of the above-mentioned note verbale as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country as soon as possible.

(*Signed*) Orlando **Requeijo Gual**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

05-48356 (E) 090905

Annex to the letter dated 6 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Note verbale dated 6 September 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the decision by the authorities of the host country denying the President of the National Assembly of the People's Power of the Republic of Cuba and the rest of his delegation the visas to attend the second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, to be held from 7 to 9 September 2005, at United Nations Headquarters, convened as a follow-up to the first such conference, held in New York in 2000 along with the Millennium Summit, when the Cuban delegation was also denied visas. In both cases, the pretext for such an unusual decision has been that world conferences of speakers of parliament are "private meetings that are not covered by the Agreement on the United Nations Headquarters".

The visas were requested as established by the authorities of the host country on those procedures, and the request was submitted to the United States Interests Section in Havana on 15 June 2005.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations wishes to express its strong protest for that arbitrary decision and its complete disagreement with the provided pretexts.

The Republic of Cuba fully shares the foundational principle of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which confers upon it a nature of international organization of universal character, which assumes that its meetings can only be held if all its members and observers have been invited and the assurance that visas will be granted has been provided.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations wishes to remind the United States Mission to the United Nations that the second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament is jointly organized by the United Nations Organization and the Inter-Parliamentary Union pursuant to resolution 59/19, adopted without a vote by the General Assembly on 8 November 2004, which points out, in its operative paragraph 2, that it welcomes the decision to convene the second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament as a follow-up to the first such conference, held in New York in 2000 along with the Millennium Summit. The above-mentioned resolution, in its operative paragraph 3, calls upon the host country to extend the usual courtesies to participants of all parliamentary delegations of States Members of the United Nations at the second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

Moreover, the General Assembly of the United Nations, through its resolution 59/291 of 15 April 2005, decided to include the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on the list of speakers of the plenary sessions at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly.

Likewise, the agenda of the second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament includes, among other activities, the speeches by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of its General Assembly.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations urges the authorities of the host country to fulfil its international obligations as the host of the United Nations Organization, including those establishing the letter and spirit of the Agreement convened between the United Nations and the United States of America on the Headquarters of the United Nations.